Washington Latin

Writing a Short Answer in Math

When writing a short answer in math, we want to follow a basic outline. This is similar to the process used for a proof in Geometry.

1. Start with the premise or given. Sometimes we may want to re-state the question.

2. Use mathematics, either Algebra or Geometry, in a sequence of steps that follow one another, to reach some result. Identify important theorems or relationships along the way used to reach the result.

3. If there are various results, apply the measure by which you choose one outcome over another.

4. Identify key distinctions in the various outcomes to explain the choice of one outcome over the others.

answer the question

say what you mean, mean what you say

be clear

specific

concise

accurate

complete

understandable to the reader

use proper English

don’t use math symbols

don’t use abbreviations unless you have specifically defined them